

Apply The Word

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ROMANS

THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD

CROSSWAY
CHURCH

Message Info

Title:

The Tithe

Speaker:

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Date:

August 20, 2017

Scriptures

Matt. 6:19-24

Theme: Our investment goals are eternal and the tithe is a key investment vehicle.

Introduction: God is concerned about our attitude toward money. He desires that our giving be connected to his spiritual purposes for our lives. We should desire an investment strategy that has the gospel as its goal.

1. Our investment goal

Three ways that we relate to money.

- a. It is heavenly treasure.
 - 1) Like any investment, you sacrifice now so that you can have a good return later.
 - 2) John Piper says, "it's not wrong to make a lot of money, but it is wrong to keep a lot of money."
- b. You are fully devoted to a master.
 - 1) If you are serving money, then you are not serving God. Money is not our goal in this life. 1 Timothy 6:9–10, Hebrews 13:5–6.
- c. Your preoccupations can be very good or very bad.
 - 1) A preoccupation with money will keep you from fellowship and from mission.
 - 2) Our hearts follow our treasure. Jesus isn't saying to not be smart with money. Christians need to be shrewder with money.
 - 3) He is saying that he wants your heart.
 - 4) The good promise of laying up treasures in heaven is that the return is guaranteed. Its value will never diminish.

2. Our investment vehicle

- a. Tithing is taking the sum of the income the Lord has given us, and returning a tenth of it to him. It's a tenth of the whole. A tenth of our gross income. Gen. 14:18-20
- b. It's not a NT command but a strong biblical principle. If we treat the tithe lightly, we miss the blessing of God and we impoverish ourselves. The tithe worships God for his provision and acknowledges that we, and everything we have, actually belong to him.
- c. The tithe is a fundamental way in which we can relate to God. Tithing cultivates humility.

Questions

1. How would you describe God's purpose for the tithe?
2. Giving is part of how we minister to God. If you struggle with disconnecting it from your spiritual life, how can you combat that tendency?
3. If you are experiencing financially tough times, how can you respond to this message with faith toward God?
4. If there was a prophetic word given on Sunday, did God use it to encourage or instruct you? If so, how?